

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #26
September 25, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE.

- This week the World Health Organization added one human case of H5N1 influenza to their cumulative case count, bringing the total to 247 cases and 144 deaths (58.3%). The one case added this week was in a child from Iraq who was hospitalized in March with a relatively mild illness for whom laboratory analysis has just now confirmed the cause of the illness.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- Planning continues for the Statewide PanFlu Exercise “Fowl Play” scheduled to be conducted on October 23-24 to include allocation of annual flu vaccine for mass vaccination sites.
- Representatives from colleges and universities around the Commonwealth are meeting at the University of Richmond on September 25 to address issues relative to a pandemic threat. Guest speakers include state health and emergency response officials as well as college representatives serving on the Virginia Department of Health avian flu task force.
- The Virginia Association of School Superintendents will be sponsoring a “Preparing for Pandemic” Conference for Superintendents, School Board Members, School / Division Staff and Community Health Personnel in Charlottesville on Nov 8. Visit: <http://vass.edschool.virginia.edu/homepages/calendar.htm>
- VDH Emergency Planning Coordinator and Lord Fairfax (Winchester Area) Health District Emergency Planner from attended a Quad State Conference on Preparedness to discuss Avian / Pan Flu Preparations. Counterparts from PA, WV, MD also attended.
- 12 local and regional PanFlu Summits have been conducted. Upcoming Summit is scheduled in the Near SW Region on October 31, postponed from August 22.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH Activities – Regional Reports

• Eastern Region

- Regional Trainer and Regional Administrative Assistant are working on the Regional Hospital Pandemic Influenza Workshop scheduled for Sept 26. The Regional Medical Consultant attended the State Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee meeting, participated in the Chesapeake LEPC Pandemic Influenza Tabletop exercise and gave a pandemic influenza presentation to Landmark Corporate.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

• Alexandria

- Interim Pandemic Influenza Report for City Council completed and scheduled for presentation, and a PanFlu brochure for the general public has been completed. The “ARE YOU READY” brochure is now available in Spanish. The Health Director gave a PI overview to the statewide Pandemic Influenza Advisory Group. The Health Director is scheduled to provide a PI seminar to graduate students in the Dept. of Health Policy, GWU School of Public Health and Health Administration.

• Arlington

- Continued Pan Flu outreach to community groups, e.g., Kiwanis Club presentation.
- Reviewing plans to identify revisions for consistency with VDH, DHHS guidelines.
- Participating in Pan Flu planning meetings with other County agencies, e.g., Sheriff's Office.

• Central Shenandoah

- Provided Pan Flu update to the regional Project Impact Group.
- District Management Team met to discuss the October Pan Flu exercise, drive-thru logistics and other requirements.

• Chesapeake

- Emergency Planner gave pandemic influenza and bioterrorism preparedness presentation to meeting of the Great Bridge Kiwanis Club on Tuesday Sept 19. Informational brochures, pamphlets, Z-cards, etc. were handed-out. Also presented to the Chesapeake Kiwanis Club on pandemic influenza and bioterrorism preparedness at their Wednesday Sept 20 meeting.
- Planner and City emergency management personnel held planning meeting on September 18 to refine objectives and for further development of a City Pan flu EOC TTX, which will be held September 21 to precede exercise Fowl Play. A follow-up planning meeting was held on September 20 to finalize plans for the City Pan flu EOC TTX. MESL injects were developed to steer COOP thinking, telecommuting challenges, and the importance of cross training staff members.

• Chickahominy

- Continued coordination with the Goochland School system on a hand cleanliness program.
- Showed Pandemic flu video at Goochland County staff meeting.
- Attended premier meeting of the Goochland Community Pandemic Flu team, which includes representative from businesses, schools, fire and rescue, etc.
- Mailed Pan Flu information package to private practice physicians in district.

• Cumberland Plateau

- Epidemiologist and Planner met with a county school office to assist in preparing a pandemic influenza (pan flu) plan.
- Planner drafted a letter to invite partner organizations to participate in the district's pandemic influenza dispensing exercise.
- Planner continued planning for the pandemic flu mass vaccination exercise scheduled for November 3, 2006 by updating Partner Invitation List and adding state injects to the District Master Schedule of Events List.

- **Fairfax**
 - Provided PanFlu presentation by Health Director and Deputy Director of Patient Care Services to Health Department employees attended by >80 personnel.
 - Conducted PanFlu planning meeting with Health Director, Deputy Health Directors, Director of Patient Care Services, Deputy Director of Patient Care Services, and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; topics included status of hiring process for 4 new personnel, billeting, organizational structure and project priorities for PanFlu Team.
- **Henrico**
 - Planner continued the planning process for the Pandemic Flu Mass Vaccination Exercise scheduled for November 4, 2006.
 - Planner attended the Central Region Planner meeting and participated in the EP&R Update Polycom.
 - Epidemiologist sent out the weekly Avian Flu update to local partners.
- **Lenowisco**
 - Held Isolation and Quarantine Training for local attorneys and judicial staff at the Wise County Health Dept.
 - Epidemiologist and Planner plan to meet with the Town of Wise to work on an Emergency Operations Plan for the Town. The Town is interested in developing its own EOP and is requesting assistance, to include Pan Flu Planning.
 - Epidemiologist attended the Southwest Region Epi meeting regarding current and future pan flu activities.
 - District Planner and staff have been planning for the upcoming statewide drill “Fowl Play” and making plans for the district to participate.
- **Lord Fairfax**
 - Planner provided educational outreach session to the Shenandoah County Rotary Club and Ministerial Association on Pan Flu planning.
 - Epi and Planner met with local hospital representatives to review current planning levels.
 - Planner went to Chambersburg, PA to address the Quad State Legislative Conference. Attendees Panel included Representatives, Delegates and Senators from WV, VA, MD and PA.
- **Loudoun**
 - Provided Panflu Exercise updates to the Loudoun Law Enforcement Chief’s Meeting.
 - Conducted monthly county Task Force meeting. Established 3 work groups to provide feedback for portions of the county plan dealing with alternate care sites, non-medical support services, and pharmaceutical interventions. Presentations on pandemic influenza plans from the Town of Leesburg, Loudoun County Public Schools, and the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Substance Abuse Services were featured.
 - Completed Final After Action Phase I Panflu Activity Report – available upon request.
 - Joined the Loudoun County Fire/Rescue Services and the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office in exhibiting at the Leisure World Health Fair (senior citizens retirement community in Lansdowne, VA). Approximately 150 Leisure World residents attended panflu, Code Flu 06, and MRC presentations.
 - Addressed the Loudoun Public Schools (Middle schools) Principal’s meeting to provide a panflu presentation followed by the school’s review of its panflu plan. Attended by 65 principals representing 76 Loudoun schools.
 - Presented a second panflu presentation followed by the school’s review of its panflu plan to all elementary school principals of the Loudoun Public Schools.
 - Provided panflu presentation to 12 Loudoun animal control and animal shelter personnel in Hamilton, VA.
 - Received special requests for and are scheduling six pandemic influenza education presentations for: Loudoun County high school principals, the NEW Corporation, Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, the Miles LeHane company, and INOVA Loudoun Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

- Briefed Loudoun Board of Supervisors Human Services Committee on Panflu progress and October exercise.
- Attended a breakfast meeting of the Leesburg Chapter of Business Networking International and provided a brief overview of the Loudoun County Health Department's outreach efforts to the Loudoun business community and to promote pandemic influenza planning in the private sector. Attended by 25 local business representatives.
- Provided Panflu presentation for members of the Leesburg EMS Council.
- Continued preparing for Loudoun Health District Sponsored Exercise "Code Flu 06"
- **Mount Rogers**
 - Health Director and Epi were interviewed by Wythe County newspaper (Media General) and provided PanFlu information.
 - Epi presented PanFlu brief to Highlands Union Bank executives Sept. 19.
- **Piedmont**
 - Presented Panflu presentation to Southside Community Hospital department leads.
 - Attended Farmville Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting focusing on communication issues and redundancies.
 - Conducted planning meeting for Hampden-Sydney dispensing site drill.
- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
 - Pandemic Influenza Educator presented information to Crosspoint Assembly of God (~ 60 attendees), Harmony House (Community Services branch, ~ 53 attendees, and the Timpken Company in Altavista (PanFlu DVD).
 - Conducted Danville Health Department, City and County Attorney Isolation and Quarantine training.
 - Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee met to discuss additional community planning. Plans for the upcoming Pandemic Influenza Town Hall meeting were discussed. Contacting speakers and inviting organizations is underway.
- **Portsmouth**
 - Presented program on Pan Flu to the Portsmouth Rotary Club on 9/19/2006.
 - The Health Director met with the Portsmouth Superintendent of Schools on 9/8/2006. Work continues on development of a functional school PI plan.
 - Dr. Lindsay will brief city department leads with respect to PI planning efforts on 10/4/06.
- **Prince William:**
 - Meeting with county agencies and funeral directors to discuss mass fatality planning.
 - Meeting with county and volunteer agencies to begin planning for special needs populations.
 - Upcoming presentations: NoVa Hospital Association on local and state level planning efforts regarding Pandemic Influenza; PWC BOCS on Pandemic Influenza including basics, school planning, COOP planning for the county, and communications that have been developed and distributed to citizens and county employees.
- **Roanoke / Alleghany County**
 - Article about Health Educator position was published in the Roanoke Times on Saturday, September 16th.
 - Health Educator and Regional Epidemiologist presented on Pan Flu to the Virginia Health Care Association (long term care facilities).
- **Southside**
 - Met with District management team about the upcoming PanFlu exercise.
 - The PanFlu-funded Health Educator position was approved and sent to personnel for posting.
 - Continued work on District exercise at Brunswick High School.
 - Met with MRC Coordinator about Pan Flu Outreach and MRC Volunteer recruitment.
 - Planner discussed Halifax Regional Hospital exercise and how we would play.
 - Discussed recent Avian Flu developments and possibilities with hospital ICP for a presentation.

- **Western Tidewater**

- Continued planning for the Mobile Pandemic Flu Mass Vaccination Exercise scheduled for October 25, 2006. Also continuing to plan for the community-wide drill scheduled for September 30, 2006.
- Epidemiologist has been in contact with school nurses discussing WTHD Panflu Plan.
- MRC Coordinator has been hired - start date is September 18th.
- Epidemiologist and Planner are training and preparing new MRC Coordinator to present Pandemic Flu training as part of continuing education for volunteers.

- **West Piedmont**

- Emergency Planner interviewed by local Channel BTW 21 in a broadcast that showcased the VDH-produced PanFlu video.
- WPHD supplied materials on Pandemic Flu for the Patrick County Health Department to display at the Patrick County (weeklong) Fair.
- Emergency Planner attended the Henry County Pandemic Influenza Planning Group meeting which focused on education of the community through faith-based organizations.
- Emergency Planner attended the Near Southwest Preparedness Alliance meeting in Roanoke.